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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,105	11/14/2003	Norberto Oscar Gomez	GRM260US	8223

181 7590 10/11/2007  
MILES & STOCKBRIDGE PC  
1751 PINNACLE DRIVE  
SUITE 500  
MCLEAN, VA 22102-3833

EXAMINER
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DERAKSHANI, PHILIPPE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3754

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/11/2007

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ipdocketing@milesstockbridge.com  
sstiles@milesstockbridge.com

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,105

Applicant(s)

GOMEZ ET AL.

Examiner

PHILIPPE S. DERAQSHANI

Art Unit

3754

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49, 51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened on claims 1, 3-8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 considered unpatentable for the reasons indicated below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-18, 21-29, 43, 45, 48-49 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kessler 3,276,640 and De Polo 6,257,463.

Kessler (3,276,640) shows a hollow cap 11 comprising: a radially surrounding sidewall; a top that radially extends from a substantially central cap opening 12 to an end of the top at the sidewall of the cap; a post 20 adapted for sealingly engaging a receiver opening 8 of a receiver piece; a support structure 14 supporting the post 20 in a longitudinally spaced position from the cap opening; and an internal cap ring (the lowermost inwardly directed flange adjacent reference number 7 in Figure 2) formed on an inner surface of the sidewall of the cap, where an outline of the support structure forms a passageway between the cap opening and a hollow space within the cap, the cap is adapted to slidably engage a receiver piece with a push-pull-motion, and the support structure contacts an inner surface of the top. (See column 1 lines 64-72 through column 2 lines 1-21).


De Polo (6,257,463) shows a hollow cap 25 comprising: a radially surrounding sidewall 26; a top 28 that radially extends from a substantially central cap opening (unlabeled, adjacent reference number 27 in Figure 6) to an end of the top at the sidewall of the cap; a post 24 adapted for sealingly engaging a receiver opening 23 of a receiver piece 11; a support structure 24a supporting the post 24 in a longitudinally spaced position from the cap opening; and an internal cap ring 33 formed on an inner surface of the sidewall 26 of the cap 25, where an outline of the support structure forms a passageway between the cap opening and a hollow space within the cap, the cap is adapted to slidably engage a receiver piece with a push-pull-motion, and the support structure contacts an inner surface of the top.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIPPE S. DERAESHANI whose telephone number is 571-272-4925. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 hour days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3754

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
PHILIPPE S DERAKSHANI  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3754

PD  
10/4/07